(d) Yes, Madam/Sir.

(e) the Government is examining the recommendations of the Dave Committee and has not taken a final view in the matter.

Migration of younger lot from Villages

1140. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction to the news-item captioned "Elders hit hard by migration of younger Lot" appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 7th December, 2000.

(b) whether it is a fact that the impact of migration has resulted in further erosion of the capacity of the older and younger generations within the poor families; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to stop migration from villagers to cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Government has been increasingly concerned with the issues of ageing like health, shelter, social and income security during old age including problems faced by elderly citizens due to migration of families mentioned in the news item and has felt the need for promoting holistic policies and programmes for dealing with a future Ageing Society. The Government has announced a National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) wherein the principal areas of intervention and action strategies to tackle these issues are suggested National Council of Older Persons (NCOP) has been constituted by the Government to advise and provide feed back to the Government on the implementation of the NPOP. The NCOP is also the designated office for receiving suggestions, complaints and grievances from individual older persons. The Ministry has also commissioned Aadhar, as a Secretariat of NCOP in December, 1999.

Besides these efforts, this Ministry is also administering two schemes for welfare of older persons viz., (i) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Home/Multi Service Centre for Older Persons and (ii) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons. Scheme (i) above provides for one time grant up to Rs. 30.00 lakhs for construction of old age homes, and scheme (ii) above

provides for grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations for establishment and maintenance of old age homes, day care centres, mobile, medicare units and non-institutional services for olders persons.

This Ministry has also commissioned a national project for Old Age Social Income and Security (OASIS) and nominated an 8 member Expert Committee to examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India and submit its recommendations to the Government. The final report of the project OASIS was submitted to the Government in January, 2000. Its recommendations are being examined by the Government.

The Ministry of Rural Development is administering National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). Under this scheme, monthly pension of Rs. 75/ is being given to destitute elderly of sixty five years and above.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rehabilitation programmes for aged and handicapped persons

†1141. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government organize programmes to involve society in the rehabilitation and assistance programmes for aged persons, handicapped, weaker and helpless sections and make them realize their responsibility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these programmes are reviewed every year at the Ministry level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of welfare schemes funded by the Ministry being carried out in States through the voluntary organisations/NGOs are indicated below:

1. Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities.
2. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/ Appliances.
3. Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse.
4. Grant-in-aid Programme for Essistance in the field of Social Defence.
5. Integrated Programme for Older Persons.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.